

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 221400Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5759

S E C R E T KINSHASA 10900

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, CG, US, SA

SUBJECT: GOZ POL SITUATION

REF: STATE 300233

1. WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF GOZ MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA
BUT WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN DETAILS FROM PRESIDENCY
DIRECTOR BISENGIMANA, WHO IS CURRENTLY AWAY FROM KINSHASA.

2. MOBIL DIRECTOR DUBRULE TOLD EMBOFF DEC 22 THAT GOZ
SUPPLY POSITION IS BETTER THAN IT HAS BEEN FOR SOME
MONTHS. PETROZAIRE ESTIMATE PREPARED DEC 15 GIVES
FOLLOWING BREAKDOWN OF ITS ESTIMATE OF ALL POL SUPPLIES
AS OF JANUARY 1 BASED UPON CURRENT STOCKS AND SUPPLIES
ENROUTE, EXPRESSED IN NUMBER OF DAYS AVAILABILITY:

A. REGULAR GASOLINE

31 DAYS

B. PREMIUM GASOLINE

30 DAYS

C. AVIATION GAS

84 DAYS

D. JET AND KEROSENE

39 DAYS

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E. GAS OIL

39 DAYS

3. DUBRULE STATED THAT SUPPLY SITUATION IS NORMAL IN THE EXTREME EASTERN PORTION OF ZAIRE WHICH OBTAINS ITS SUPPLIES FROM TANZANIA AND UGANDA. THERE IS A CURRENT SHORTAGE OF POL PRODUCTS IN THE SHABA WHICH OBTAINS ITS SUPPLIES FROM SOUTH AFRICA, BUT WITH SUPPLIES ENROUTE SITUATION SHOULD BE NORMAL IN THE SHABA BY DEC 31.

4. DUBRULE AND DEVLIN LAST VISITED SAFRICA END OF NOVEMBER TO DISCUSS PROPOSED SUPPLY GUARANTEE WITH SAG OFFICIALS. THEY BOTH DESCRIBED TALKS AS INCONCLUSIVE, WITH SAFRICANS MERELY PROMISING THAT THEY WOULD STUDY THE SITUATION AND ADVISE LATER. THE SAG PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS RECENTLY SENT A CABLE TO FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER BOMBOKO, WHO HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY MOBUTU TO ACT ON BEHALF OF GOZ WITH SAG, STATING THAT NECESSARY GUARANTEE COULD BE CONSIDERABLY REDUCED IF GOZ COULD WORK OUT AN AGREEMENT WITH MOBIL WHEREBY MOBIL AGREED TO UTILIZE GOZ PORTION OF CURRENT ZAIRIAN PRODUCTION AND FURNISH CORRESPONDING VALUE OF CRUDE SUITABLE FOR LOCAL REFINERIES. PERMANENT SECRETARY STATED THAT, IF GOZ CAN REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH MOBIL, THEN SAG WILL DISCUSS GUARANTEE FOR BALANCE WITH NOMINEES OF GOZ. MOBIL HAS REFERRED PROPOSAL TO ITS NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS WHERE IT IS CURRENTLY UNDER STUDY.

5. ZAIRIAN TOTAL POL REQUIREMENTS ON AN ANNUAL BASIS ARE APPROXIMATELY \$170 MILLION, OF WHICH TWO-THIRDS BY VOLUME AND ONE-HALF BY VALUE IS CRUDE. TOTAL ANNUAL CRUDE REQUIREMENTS ARE 750,000 TONS. GOZ HAS CONCLUDED AGREEMENT WITH LIBYANS TO SUPPLY 400,000 TONS OF THIS REQUIREMENT AFTER PRESENTATION OF IRREVOCABLE LETTERS OF CREDIT. BECAUSE OF QUALITIES OF LIBYAN CRUDE, LOCAL PRODUCTION CANNOT BE BLENDED WITH IT. LOCAL CRUDE COULD BE USED FOR APPROXIMATELY 20 PER CENT OF REFINERY REQUIREMENT IF IT IS BLENDED WITH SAUDI ARABIAN LIGHT CRUDE.

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6. ALTHOUGH IMMEDIATE SUPPLY SITUATION IS BETTER THAN DESCRIBED BY ZAIRIAN CHARGE, POL SUPPLY IS, HAS BEEN, AND PROMISES TO BE ON A HAND-TO-MOUTH BASIS UNLESS SOME GUARANTEE SUCH AS THAT PROPOSED BY SAUDI ARABIA CAN BE ACHIEVED. ALTHOUGH THERE IS OUTSIDE POSSIBILITY THAT SAFRICAN GUARANTEE MAY EVENTUALLY EMERGE, WE URGE THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO ENCOURAGE SAUDIS TO BE FORTHCOMING.

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